Privatisation of Health Care

602. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Institute of Finance and Policy have conducted any study about privatisation of health care and submitted their report titled "Utilisation pattern and financing of public hospitals";

(b) the main purpose of the study;

(c) the recommendations/findings of the Institute; and

(d) the reaction of Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVERA): (a) to (d) The National Institute of Public Finance and Policy. New Delhi has not carried out any specific study about the privatisation of health care; however, a study on the "Utilisation Patter and Financing of Public Hospitals" has been carried out by them. The main purpose of the study is to examine the utilisation and financing of secondary and tertiary level Government hospitals (having 100 beds or more) with a view to ascertaining the efficacy of use of resources and the unit costs including issue of augmenting their internal resources by recovering a part of the cost of services provided by them while exempting bulk of the population from payment of user charges. The report has not yet been formally submitted to the Government as it is still in the draft stage, and recommendations etc. are yet to be finalised.

Recruitment of women in Armed Forces

603. SHRI GUNDAPPA KORWAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have issued directions to recruit women in the armed forces also; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the three wings of the military to recruit women and the norms prescribed for that purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) The Government approved induction of women as officers in the 'non-combatant' branches of the Armed Forces. The recruitment of women as officers is made in the following branches of the Army, the Navy and the Air Force;

Army: Artillery, Engineers, Signals, Army Service Corps, Army Ordnance Corps. EME, Army Education Corps, Intelligence and the Judge Advocate General Branch.

Navy: Education, Logistics, Law, Air Traffic Control.

Air: Flying, Aeronautical Engineering (Electronics),

Force: Aeronautical Engineering (Mechanical), Administration, Logistics, Accounts, Education, Meteorology.

The induction of women is restricted to the Officers Cadre on Short Service Commissioned basis initially for a period of 5 years, except in the technical branch of Air Force, where it is for a period of three years.

The number of women officers so far commissioned in the above branches of the Army, the Navy and the Air Force are 124, 43 and 145 respectively. The number of women officers undergoing